



## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

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**Food and nutrition security Political Economy Analysis (PEA) with a gender lens; in the three selected counties of Nakuru, Nairobi and Nyandarua Counties and at national level(Kenya).**

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**Issued by  
The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)  
and  
CARE International**



## I. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF WORK

### 1. GAIN AND CARE

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), is a Swiss-based foundation launched at the UN in 2002 to tackle the human suffering caused by malnutrition. Working with both governments and businesses, we aim to transform food systems so that they deliver more nutritious food for all people. At GAIN, we believe that everyone in the world should have access to nutritious and safe food. We work to understand and deliver specific solutions to the daily challenge of food insecurity faced by poor people. By understanding that there is no “one-size-fits-all” model, we develop alliances and build tailored programmes, using a variety of flexible models and approaches. We build alliances between governments, local and global businesses, and civil society to deliver sustainable improvements at scale. We are part of a global network of partners working together to create sustainable solutions to malnutrition. Through alliances, we provide technical, financial and policy support to key participants in the food system. We use specific learning, evidence of impact, and results of projects and programmes to shape and influence the actions of others.

CARE is an international NGO with local staff and community partners in 100 countries. We create local solutions to poverty and inequality, and we seek dignity for everyone every day and during times of crisis. These solutions have a broad range, from disaster response to food and nutrition to education and work for women and girls to healthy mothers and children. CARE International in Kenya (CIK) has been working in Kenya since 1968, and its core programming areas include community adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction; humanitarian assistance and emergency response; agriculture & market systems for food and nutrition security; Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH); health, equity & rights; and women’s economic empowerment.

### 2. CASCADE PROJECT

In partnership with CARE Kenya, GAIN is implementing **Catalyzing strengthened policy action for healthy diets and resilience (CASCADE)** project, whose goal is to improve food security and contribute to the reduction of malnutrition of at least 5 million women of reproductive age and children under 5 in Benin, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Mozambique. The programme has two strategic objectives: it aims to increase access to and consumption of healthy diets, as well as increasing the resilience of households to economic and climate change-related shocks across the six countries, with a focus on women of reproductive age and children. It aims to galvanize government, business, and communities around 5 domains: **1) Improved policy implementation; 2) Engaged private service providers; 3) Strengthened community structures; 4) Empowered women; 5) Strengthened coordination.**

In Kenya, CASCADE project focuses on **Nakuru, Nyandarua and Nairobi counties with cross cutting effect at national levels.** Aligning with GAIN’s A1 program (Vegetable for All project) areas at national levels and in the targeted Counties, CASCADE will also build



on successful projects in Nyandarua by CARE which have successfully implemented [Farmers' Field and Business Schools](#) (FFBSs) that integrated gender-transformative interventions. Apart from sustaining the gains made, CASCADE programme targets to galvanize government commitments towards policy change and accountability and respond to GAIN's goal towards strengthening food systems in Kenya and supporting stakeholders' actions at County and national levels.

### **3. BACKGROUND/CONTEXT**

Poor diets are already responsible for the majority of the world's global disease burden and Kenya is not a disparity. Shocks such as those from COVID-19 virus are contributing to secondary effects of increased food prices, food shortages, civil unrest and exacerbate existing inequalities (based on, for example, income, gender, and ethnicity). The potential strangulation of food systems from collapsing food value chains, including the devastating impact on markets and effective demand, is capable of enormously amplifying health and social stability problems – threatening to worsen food crisis' already affecting the most vulnerable due to hunger and deteriorating diets.

Globally, it is evident that Ukraine and Russia wars has a negative influence on food availability, accessibility and distribution across the World. This has led to shift in prices even to non-consumable foods. Unfortunately, Kenya experienced the impact of global challenges. High temperatures as a results of climate change, have continuously been experienced, with no or little rain in most of the areas in the Country in the recent past. Hence leading to low agricultural produce available to the consumers. Conversely, recently we experienced heavy rainfall leading to flooding in most parts of the Country further pointing to challenges of climate variability.

The impact of climate change on food system is also significantly calling for urgent action by all actors to accelerate their actions. There are expected actions to address challenges affecting the rural communities, such a political move which can impact governance and with national and sub national leaders involved, ultimately it influences citizen`s behaviour.

The adoption of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 effectively established a two-tier devolved system of governance comprising of the National government and forty-seven County governments. County governments usually receive at least 15% of the recently audited national revenues in the form of County revenue, with marginalized counties receiving an additional allocation as equalization fund towards the provision of public services in core sectors. Counties also have the power to raise revenue through specific taxes and fees levied for service provision to enable them deliver on the assigned functions including among others service delivery in nutrition sensitive sectors such as health, water and agriculture. Worth noting is that the health sector functions are being devolved to the county level with the national government continues to oversee health policy and National referral health facilities functions. This high the relevance of both level of governments on the food system supply chain in the spirit of devolution.



Food production and supply chains as well as consumption patterns in Kenya require policy reforms and political commitment to guarantee sustainable diets. The economy and political situation of the country have a great impact to food systems including its supply, availability, affordability and accountability by service providers. Political good will to nutrition and food security at County levels responds well to the growth of the county economy and the wellbeing of the people.

However, through the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, the government seeks to end malnutrition by 2027 and improve the nationwide affordability and accessibility of food. Transition of governments which also came with competing priorities and realignment of programs impacting counties that we work with. It is also important to evaluate effective mechanisms to engage them and strengthen a working relationship with stakeholders and especially private sectors.

The political economy situation analysis report and engagement strategy will be relevant to catalyze stakeholders' engagements and address barriers in the delivery, resource allocation to nutrition and consumption of healthy foods in Kenya.

Therefore, the RFP aims at engaging the services of a consultant/organisation to conduct a political economy analysis (PEA) targeted at the delivery of food and nutrition policies; especially on the implementation of Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) and its domestication at county levels, Kenya national nutrition action plan (KNAP) and fortification policies/strategy and applying gender lens at national level and in the three selected counties of Nakuru, Nairobi and Nyandarua counties, providing a critical analysis of the context, including clear interest and highlighting possible opportunities for CASCADE project.

The service provider is also expected to engage with various county officials, and private partners responsible for delivering nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions, holding various Based on the analysis, provide recommendations and highlight possible pathways that will lead to increased funding for nutrition at county level.

#### **4. THE POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS (WITH GENDER LENS)**

##### **4.1. PURPOSE OF THE POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS**

The purpose of this assignment is to establish the current political economy situation enabling or infringing the delivery food and nutrition policies by focusing on the two levels of governance. A major focus of this work will be to identify and synthesise political economy challenges towards advancing food and nutrition security for women and children.

Political economy will encompasses identifying conflicts and trade-offs across different interest groups (*donors, ministries, parties, food system actors*) that can derail movement towards a common agenda and effective implementation of policies.



In addition, the political economy analysis is envisioned to evaluate how women of reproductive age and children under 5 years have been impacted overtime by inadequate access to healthier diets due to either unavailability, inaccessibility, & unaffordability, best practices of gender programs and solutions.

#### **4.2. OVERVIEW OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SITUATION IN KENYA**

Kenya is experiencing the “triple burden” of malnutrition: undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity. 18% children under 5 are stunted, 5% of children are wasted, 3% of children are overweight or obese, 42% of women experience iron deficiency anaemia during pregnancy. The country is estimated to have lost Ksh. 373.9 Bn (6.9% of the GDP) due to malnutrition related health, education and productivity impacts. Food insecurity in Kenya has remained a perennial problem (Route to Food, 2022) and is further worsened by dominant and industrialized food systems which are majorly based on media perception and classification on what is nutritious and healthy and what is not

The Food System is currently facing unprecedented challenges largely linked to exponential population growth, urbanization, climate change, huge post-harvest losses. Developing a resilient and agile food system will require a substantial shift in the way we produce, consume and think about food. One such threat relates to food safety which require stronger policies as well as effective governance in our food system. Key food system actors in Kenya such as the agricultural production system; the food storage, transport and trade systems; the food transformation; food retail amongst others, are not adequately focusing on delivering nutritious food to consumers. There is need to change availability, affordability, and desirability of nutritious foods if we have to transform food systems because they shape diet choices

#### **4.2 OBJECTIVES**

The primary objectives of the political economy analysis are as follows:

##### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1.) Conduct a Political Economy Analysis (PEA) targeted at the delivery of food and nutrition policies; especially on the implementation of Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) and its domestication at county levels, Kenya national nutrition action plan (KNAP) and the county level CNAPs and fortification policies/strategy and applying gender lens at national level and in three selected counties of Nakuru, Nairobi and Nyandarua counties
- 2.) Identify the alignments, conflicts and trade-offs across different interest groups (donors, ministries, political parties, private sector, food system actors) that can enhance or derail focus towards a common agenda and effective implementation of food and nutrition policies



- 3.) Establish current food and nutrition coordination mechanism (horizontal and vertical) with special focus on food systems politics and how it plays out in the context of inclusivity for various groups with implications for uptake and legitimacy
- 4.) Identify the current priorities for national and county governments in light of macroeconomics and financing for food and nutrition
- 5.) Provide innovative ways to address political economy issues identified at both levels of government.

## 5. METHODOLOGY AND DELIVERABLES,

### 5.1. METHODOLOGY

The consultant will use a mixed methodology based on agreed frameworks and it will be largely desk review of existing national and county evidence and various policies as well as primary data collection with selected key informants and Focus groups.

Consultatively, the consultant will work with CASCADE team to engage with the counties in the development of the research, collating evidence, food systems policies and relevant stakeholders.

Possible Methodology	Expected Results
Desk review of national and county technical resource material related to development plans, investments for nutrition, governance and overall political context	Draft report- Summary of the draft findings generated from the desktop review. Drawn from national and county information (highlight gaps in gender aspects)
Conduct consultative focus group discussions and KII informant interviews targeting key relevant stakeholders at county level.	Raw notes capturing county stakeholders' inputs.
Map relevant stakeholders including think tanks engaging in political economy analysis in the target counties.	List of stakeholders engaging with experience and interests to apply.
Provide a framework/engagement strategy, considering contextual factors (religion, culture) demographics, the level of political situation, on food systems and nutrition security, incomes and which could be used to identify a future pathway towards shaping nutritious diets from sustainable food systems for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement/framework strategy/business case</li> <li>• Consultative engagements conducted a with county-based stakeholders.</li> </ul>



<p>Prepare and share a research report, summary of results, recommendations for action on the findings and analysis on the areas mentioned above (a standard power point presentation slide deck covering the key findings and recommendations</p>	<p>Develop a full report and a popular version with clear recommendations</p>
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**The successful applicant shall provide the following:**

- Submit proposal that demonstrates solid understanding and viable technical approach.
- Detailed demonstration of an understanding of the ToR
- Proposed Methodology to achieve the task (subject to further consensus building)
- Clear activity schedule and timelines
- Proof/ copies of past deliverables and at least three references preferably comprising clients.
- Team composition and accompanying CVs
- Detailed Budget

Payment will only be made against agreed milestones and deliverables detailed in the contract signed by both parties and on vetting of the report on its quality and its measure to have met the terms and conditions of the consultancy.

**Minimum Qualifications**

- An advanced degree in economics, public health, political Science, social sciences or related field of study
- Experience in political engagements/advocacy/governance engagements with private sectors especially Small Medium Enterprises at County and national level is essential
- Experience in advocacy especially in political economy analysis with a gender lens is an added advantage

**Deliverables and timelines**

- Assignment starts date 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.
- Workplan of activities with clear timelines
- Desktop report summarising analysis of gaps, synergies and opportunities on implementation of various research i.e., tax reports.
- Develop key outcomes documents as prioritized in the delivery table
- Ensure gender aspects, principles and approaches are embedded in the expected deliverables.
- Design approved outcome documents.

**The assignment on political economy analysis**

- The political economy analysis should have a section which includes a discussion and comparisons on the current situation at county and national level.



- Footnotes as well as references should be provided; footnotes should include relevant website links and any supporting notes
- Tables and diagrams should be used to support narrative. Detailed tables can be placed in Appendices with tables and diagrams in the main part of the report focusing on key analytical information.
- Wherever possible website links should be provided e.g., link to specific legislation; and specific parts of county plans and as well as economic documents if important should be noted with some quotation e.g. section of the policy and mandate of roles and responsibilities as applicable to food and nutrition: national government and county government mandate.
- The desktop study should be supported by written communications and select key informant interviews and Focus group discussions with an emphasis on stakeholders at the national and county levels.
- The methodology and data collection tools shall be shared and approved by GAIN ahead of the exercise.
- Include county specific slides approved by county relevant departments and summery reports capturing the generated data.
- A clear pathways of gender related information linked to the reports with recommendations on the impact of gender on policy work shall be desirable.

## **II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING.**

This section addresses the process for responding to this solicitation. Applicants are encouraged to review this prior to completing their responses.

### **1. CONTACT**

Sheila Odhiambo is part of the project team (Project Manager-CASCADE) and he will be available via email to respond to clarifications on this solicitation. Please direct all inquiries and other communications to the contact below. Responses will not be confidential except in cases where proprietary information is involved. [sodhiambo@gainhealth.org](mailto:sodhiambo@gainhealth.org)

### **2. BUDGET**

Applicants are required to provide GAIN with a detailed budget in Kenya Shillings, including fees/travel/accommodation and any other direct costs to be incurred in the delivery of the Scope of Work. Include a brief narrative justification for line items included. The budget must be inclusive of all taxes/VAT and indirect costs. The final budget amount will have to be approved by GAIN prior to starting the project.

### **3. FORMAT FOR PROPOSAL**

The proposal needs to be formatted as two separate documents:





- Technical proposal:
  - i. Description of previous relevant work (maximum 1 page);
  - ii. Composition of team with names and brief biographies of all key staff (maximum 3 pages);
  - iii. Detailed proposal explaining how the areas of work mentioned in Scope of Work will be addressed, including risk and mitigation strategy and timeline (maximum 10 pages);
  - iv. References.
- Financial proposal:
  - i. Budget.
  - ii. Detailed budget justification.
  - iii. Offer of services.

#### **4. SUBMISSION**

Complete proposals should be submitted in electronic copy to: [gainkenya@gainhealth.org](mailto:gainkenya@gainhealth.org). The subject line should indicate **“FOOD SYSTEM/NUTRITION, POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS (WITH GENDER ANALYSIS)”**.

#### **5. DEADLINE**

Completed proposals should be submitted by **5:00 pm EAT on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**

#### **6. UNACCEPTABLE**

The following proposals will automatically not be considered or accepted:

- Proposals that are received after the RFP deadline.
- Proposals received by fax or post.
- Incomplete proposals.
- Proposals that are not signed.

#### **7. REVISIONS**

Proposals may be revised by electronic mail and confirmed by hard copy provided such revision(s) are received before the deadline.

#### **8. ACCEPTANCE**

CARE and GAIN will not necessarily accept the lowest cost or any of the proposals submitted. Accordingly, eligibility requirements, evaluation criteria and mandatory requirements shall govern.



## 9. COMPLETION

- Proposals must be submitted on official letterhead of the lead organisation or firm and must be signed principal or authorising signatory of the lead firm or organisation.
- In case of errors in calculating overall costs, the unit costs will govern.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to understand the requirements and instructions specified by GAIN. In the event that clarification is necessary, applicants are advised to contact GAIN at [gainkenya@gainhealth.org](mailto:gainkenya@gainhealth.org) prior to making their submission before the deadline specified in the timeline above.
- While CARE and GAIN have used considerable efforts to ensure an accurate representation in this RFP, the information contained in this RFP is supplied solely as a guideline. The information is not warranted to be accurate by CARE and GAIN. Nothing in this RFP is intended to relieve applicants from forming their own opinions and conclusions with respect to the matters addressed in this RFP.
- By responding to this RFP, the applicant confirms its understanding that failing to comply with any of the RFP conditions may result in the disqualification of their submission.

## 10. RIGHTS OF REJECTION

CARE and GAIN reserve the right to reject any or all submissions or to cancel or withdraw this RFP for any reason and at its sole discretion without incurring any cost or liability for costs or damages incurred by any applicant, including, without limitation, any expenses incurred in the preparation of the submission. The applicant acknowledges and agrees that CARE and GAIN will not indemnify the applicant for any costs, expenses, payments or damages directly or indirectly linked to the preparation of the submission.

## 11. REFERENCES

CARE and GAIN reserve the right, before awarding the proposal, to require the applicant to submit such evidence of qualifications as it may deem necessary, and will consider evidence concerning the financial, technical and other qualifications and abilities of the applicant.

## 12. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

After awarding the proposal and upon written request to GAIN, only the following information will be released:

- Name of the successful applicant.
- The applicant's own individual ranking.



### **III. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS SOLICITATION**

#### **1. NOTICE OF NON-BINDING SOLICITATION**

GAIN reserves the right to reject any and all bids received in response to this solicitation and is in no way bound to accept any proposal. GAIN additionally reserves the right to negotiate the substance of the successful applicants' proposals, as well as the option of accepting partial components of a proposal if deemed appropriate.

#### **2. CONFIDENTIALITY**

All information provided as part of this solicitation is considered confidential. In the event that any information is inappropriately released, GAIN will seek appropriate remedies as allowed. Proposals, discussions, and all information received in response to this solicitation will be held as strictly confidential.

#### **3. RIGHT TO FINAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PROPOSAL**

GAIN reserves the right to negotiate on the final costs, and the final scope of work of the proposal. GAIN reserve the right to limit or include third parties at GAIN's sole and full discretion in such negotiations.

#### **4. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Proposals will be reviewed by the Selection Team. The following indicate a list of the significant criteria against which proposals will be assessed. This list is not exhaustive or 100% inclusive and is provided to enhance the applicants' ability to respond with substance.

Applicants are required to submit the following information, conforming to the guidelines given in this section:

Understanding of the scope of work:

- Proposal shall demonstrate a clear understanding of the project objective and deliverables as outlined in Section I.

Demonstrate a clear understanding of the technical requirements of this RFP:

- Providing detailed technical documentation of the proposed strategy.
- Evidence of experience delivering solutions using the proposed information technology platform. (*The consultant should have experience in political economy analysis, policies, programming, development of theories of change and a strong background in food and nutrition security in the development sector with a nexus to environment/climate change and gender*)

The creative and methodological approaches required to implement each of the parts of the scope of work.



Comprehensiveness of work plan and reasonableness of proposed time frame:

- Proposal shall include a feasible work plan to ensure successful completion of deliverables.
- The work plan details how activities will be coordinated.

Detailed budget and cost-effectiveness of proposed approach:

- Evidence of cost-effective approaches to undertaking the scope of work within the proposed budget.
- Proposal shall identify possible challenges and include creative approaches to addressing them.

Management and personnel plan:

- The team members working on this project shall have the relevant qualifications and overall experience required to successfully implement the project.
- Roles and responsibilities of each team member shall be clearly defined. CARE and GAIN and shall each have one main contact person clearly identified in the proposal.

A duly completed offer of services.

**GAIN reserves the right to contact the individuals and contractor(s) in order to verify the information provided as part of the Proposal.**

## **5. REVIEW PROCESS**

The review process will involve a Review Panel with participants selected by CARE and GAIN.

## **6. LIMITATIONS WITH REGARD TO THIRD PARTIES**

GAIN does not represent, warrant, or act as agent for any third party as a result of this solicitation. This solicitation does not authorise any third party to bind or commit GAIN in any way without GAIN's express written consent.

## **7. COMMUNICATION**

All communication regarding this solicitation shall be directed to appropriate parties at GAIN. Contacting third parties involved in the RFP, the review panel, or any other party may be considered a conflict of interest and could result in disqualification of the proposal.

## **8. FINAL ACCEPTANCE**

Award of a Proposal does not imply acceptance of its terms and conditions. GAIN reserves the right to negotiate on the final terms and conditions including the costs and the scope of work when negotiating the final contract to be agreed between GAIN and the applicant.



**9. VALIDITY PERIOD**

The offer of services will remain valid for a period of 60 days after the Proposal closing date. In the event of award, the successful applicant will be expected to enter into a contract subject to GAIN's terms and conditions.

**10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Subject to the terms of the contract to be concluded between GAIN and the applicant, the ownership of the intellectual property related to the scope of work of the contract, including technical information, know-how, processes, copyrights, models, drawings, source code and specifications developed by the applicant in performance of the contract shall vest entirely with GAIN.

**11. SCOPE OF CHANGE**

Once the contract is signed, no increase in the liability of GAIN or in the fees to be paid by GAIN for the services resulting from any change, modification or interpretation of the documents will be authorised or paid to the applicant unless such change, modification or interpretation has received the express prior written approval of GAIN.

**OFFER OF SERVICES**

1. Offer submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Print or type business, corporate name and address)

2. I (We) the undersigned hereby offer to GAIN, to furnish all necessary expertise, supervision, materials, and other things necessary to complete to the entire satisfaction of the Executive Director or authorised representative, the work as described in the Request for Proposal according to the terms and conditions of GAIN for the following prices:

- a. [to be completed]
- b. [to be completed]
- c. [to be completed]
- d. [to be completed]



3. I (We) agree that the Offer of Services will remain valid for a period of sixty days (60) calendar days after the date of its receipt by GAIN.
4. I (We) herewith submit the following:
  - a. A Proposal to undertake the work, in accordance with GAIN's requirements specified.
  - b. A duly completed offer of services, subject to the terms herein.

**OFFERS WHICH DO NOT CONTAIN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DOCUMENTATION OR DEVIATE FROM THE PRESCRIBED COSTING FORMAT MAY BE CONSIDERED INCOMPLETE AND NON-RESPONSIVE.**

Date this day of [add month and year] in [add location].

\_\_\_\_\_ [add title]

Signature (applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_ [add title]

Signature (applicant)